

Palmerston North

(From our own correspondent.)

April 2.

To-day (Sunday) the members of the women's branch of the Sacred Heart Society and the Hibernian Society approached the Holy Table at the 7.30 o'clock Mass. The Rev. Father Kehoe celebrated the 11 o'clock Mass, and preached to a large congregation. There was Exposition of the Blessed Sacrament during the day, and a procession in the evening.

The quarterly meeting of the H.A.C.B. Society was held on Tuesday last, Bro. Gleeson (president) in the chair. Several candidates were proposed, and one new member was initiated. The usual winter card tournament, under the auspices of the Friendly Societies' Council, will shortly commence for the shield at present in the possession of the Hibernian Society, and if won this season will be the property of the branch.

The Rev. Father Kehoe, at present the guest of the Rev. Father Castello, is a noted musical authority, and is very hard at work re-organising St. Patrick's Choir.

The Rev. Father Venning, S.M., very kindly broke his journey here on Monday last, and spent the evening with the St. Vincent de Paul Society, the members of which specially assembled to meet him. All were gratified to hear of the continued success and spread of the society under his able guidance.

Mrs. Gudgeon, who has been organist to St. Columba's choir, Ashhurst, tendered her resignation on Sunday last, owing to receiving an appointment near Christchurch. A large number of members were present, and on their behalf Miss Kerrigan made a presentation to Mrs. Gudgeon as a token of their appreciation and esteem. Mr. Lynch suitably replied on behalf of Mrs. Gudgeon. Subsequently Miss K. Spelman was appointed organist.

Hawera

(From our own correspondent.)

Last Wednesday Rev. Father Venning, S.M., of Wellington, opened two branches of the St Vincent de Paul Society in this parish—one for ladies, and the other for men. The following officers were elected:—Ladies' branch: President, Mrs. O'Callaghan; vice-president, Mrs. N. M. McCarthy; secretary, Miss M. Dolan; treasurer, Miss A. Gallagher. Men's branch: President, B. McCarthy; vice-president, Y. H. Ryan; secretary, N. Rault; treasurer, E. Gallagher.

On Sunday evening after devotions a very enthusiastic meeting of the men of the parish was held in connection with the reception of the Irish delegates, as one of their meetings is to be held at Hawera. Messrs. O'Dea and McCarthy were appointed joint secretaries.

Right Rev. Mgr. Fowler preached at devotions on Friday last, and is going to preach again on Palm Sunday. Bro. T. Sexton, who was treasurer of the local branch of the Hibernian Society for some time, passed away on March 24, after an illness of nine months.—R.I.P.

The Hibernian Society has decided to start a library in connection with the branch, and has ordered the first instalment of books, about ten pounds' worth.

Auckland

(By Telegraph from our own correspondent.)

His Lordship the Bishop administered the Sacrament of Confirmation to close on two hundred and fifty candidates at St. Benedict's Church last Sunday afternoon. Right Rev. Mgr. Gillan and Rev. Fathers Hunt, Gilmartin, Brennan, and Carran were present. Candidates were present from Helensville, Makarau, Henderson, Reweti, Waimaka, and Avondale, and some had come a distance of fifty miles. When his Lordship visited these places some time ago he met a number of the children, and on last Sunday he received them, after Confirmation in the sacristy, spoke kindly to them, and gave each a nice medal as a memento of the ceremony. Among the number confirmed, fifty were adults.

If the number of exhibitors is any criterion, the Wellington Industrial Exhibition will be a great success. The demand for space is so great that the plans have had to be reconstructed. An area has been taken from the Concert Hall, and the general committee, together with the exhibition executive, will meet for the purpose of adopting, if approved, the amended plans. The re-arrangement of the floor makes room for 2200 extra feet of space, and this has all been applied for. Several applications are in hand for wall space in the gallery, a limited area in both places being available. No definite policy has been laid down in regard to entertainments during the period of the exhibition, but this matter is now under consideration. There are several applications in from persons desirous of conducting cinematograph shows, while an owner of trick dogs is willing to put on an entertainment. With the reduction of the entertainment hall area 1280 persons can be seated, where formerly there was room for 1500.

IRISH PARLIAMENTARY PARTY

THE DELEGATES TO NEW ZEALAND

The following letter from Mr. J. Burke, secretary of the Wellington Reception Committee, has reached us just as we go to press. The letter explains itself; and we gladly publish the intimation it contains far and wide. Undoubtedly donations should be gathered at the earliest possible moment. It would, we think, facilitate this object if all the centres (in both Islands) likely to be addressed were immediately communicated with, so that the local treasurers could be appointed without delay. Each centre would naturally wish its contribution to go in a lump sum; and those outside of the centres to be addressed could either send donations to the nearest local treasurer, or to Wellington. In the meantime, we hope the Wellington committee's invitation will be widely noted and promptly responded to. Mr. Burke (whose address is 'Land Transfer Office, Wellington') writes as follows:—To the Editor: Sir,—As you are aware, three representatives of the Irish Nationalist Party are now en route to our shores to make as is confidently expected, a last appeal for funds to complete the fight which has been waged for more than a century, and which is now on the eve of closing with a glorious victory for the cause that has known no surrender. Mr. Martin Kennedy, of this city, has been entrusted with the arrangement of twelve meetings in the Dominion, and in order to make the visit a success he called together a meeting of those interested in the movement, and a strong committee has been formed, which is doing its utmost to present the party with a purse worthy of our laud. Circulars (a copy of which is enclosed) have been forwarded to very many places with a view to gathering funds even before the delegates reach New Zealand, but as some places may be overlooked, may I ask the assistance of your valuable columns in notifying your readers of the steps that are in progress and also notifying any who wish to contribute to the cause that their donations, large or small, will be gratefully accepted.

The following is the circular letter referred to in Mr. Burke's communication:—

Wellington, March 31, 1911.

Dear Rev. Father,—The following is the text of a cablegram received last week by Mr. Martin Kennedy, of Wellington, from Mr. J. E. Redmond, Leader of the Nationalist Party in Ireland:—

'Martin Kennedy, Wellington.

'Irish Party delegates arriving Wellington, Rotorua. Kindly arrange reception and twelve meetings.—Redmond.'

On receipt of the cable, which speaks for itself, Mr. Kennedy convened a meeting of sympathisers with the cause. The meeting was largely attended, and the unanimous decision was expressed that we should give the delegates—Messrs. W. A. Redmond, M.P., J. T. Donovan, and R. Hazleton—a right royal welcome and make their mission to this free land of ours a pronounced success.

As this visit is confidently anticipated to be the last occasion on which the gallant party that has fought so long and consistently against overwhelming odds will have need to appeal to us for financial aid, we ask all children of the Dear Old Land and true sympathisers with the cause to rally round the flag, and show our brothers in the battle that we are with them heart and hand.

From the meagre information to hand you will see the delegates intend to address twelve meetings only, and consequently it will not be possible for them to speak in your district; however, we will use our best endeavors to get at least one, if not all three, delegates to visit you and deliver an address in public.

It will be necessary to appoint a local treasurer for each centre until the delegates on arrival intimate their desire as to the disposal of the funds collected in New Zealand.

Meantime, we trust you will bring the matter before the people of your district and put in circulation the lists enclosed.

Trusting you will give this matter your whole-hearted support, or, if through any cause you find you cannot personally attend to it, you will request some prominent member of your district to take the matter in hand,

I am, dear Rev. Father,

Yours sincerely,

J. BURKE,

Secretary Wellington Committee.

Address—Land Transfer Office.

A strong attempt is being made by the labor unions to get a general Saturday half-holiday here (says the Wellington correspondent of the *Otago Daily Times*). A petition signed by 7169 people asking that a poll be taken on the subject has been sent in. It has been ascertained, however, that 1500 of those who signed the petition are not on the roll. This is an apparent reflection on the originators of the petition, and the Mayor has communicated the fact to the secretary of the Trades and Labor Council. A sufficient number of ratepayers, however, signed to ensure the taking of a poll.

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